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Vision

**Safer Communities
Through Successful
Youth**

Mission Statement

**ADJC enhances
public protection by
assisting in the
changing of
delinquent thinking
and behaviors of
juvenile offenders
committed to the
Department**



ADJC's Education System: New Improvements & Moving Forward

Fiscal Year 2005–2006 saw the beginning of new changes within the Arizona's Department of Juvenile Corrections Education Division. By directive from the Arizona Department of Education, all four secure care facilities or 'safe schools' ceased being non-graded secondary schools and became graded K-12 schools. Moving to a graded system was a monumental undertaking which involved enhancements to the ADJC's Youthbase system in order to streamline data collection of student information. Enhancements to Youthbase included a new grade input system, automatic transcript development from the grade program, improved attendance data collection, and several new reports to help maintain the reliability of the data being entered at each school and interfacing with the Student Accountability Information System (SAIS). SAIS is the Department of Education's system used to track students' attendance, enrollments, and withdrawals.

All four schools are accredited through North Central Accreditation and offer the standard high school courses, including Physical Education, US/AZ Constitution, and World History. ADJC also provides programs and related services for students who are eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The purpose of IDEA is for all youth with disabilities to receive a free appropriate education.

In 2006, the Arizona Department of Education completed monitoring of all four ADJC schools for IDEA compliance and the Department was found to be 100% compliant with State and Federal regulations governing Special Education. The Education Division also has partnered with Rio Salado Community College to establish the distance learning program. All credits earned are transferable to any Community College in Arizona.

The Department is currently working with Rio Salado to design and expand a variety of vocational courses at each of our facilities. Vocational Education provides rehabilitative and job readiness skills to students to meet the needs of the job market. Vocational programming at ADJC's schools includes the following: Automotive, Building Trades, Culinary Arts, and Technology. The direct relevance for youth is they gain job readiness skills, team work, hands-on practice, and improvements in basic academic skills such as in reading and math.

In November 2006, ADJC's Education Division received a prestigious award from the Arizona Department of Education/Exceptional Student Services. The nomination states that "In 2006, ADJC schools have emerged as a flagship for secure care in Arizona and are considered at the forefront of juvenile education nationwide. From September 2004 to present, many positive reforms have taken place in ADJC's Education and have involved collaboration from the entire Department, as well as support from the Governor's Office, the Arizona Department of Education, community colleges and local businesses."

Profiles of Successful Youth

Story 1 On a recent visit to Black Canyon School (BCS), State Representative Ray Barnes (R-D7) was quite impressed with a youth that spoke so eloquently about her experience at BCS and being involved in the Culinary Arts Program. Rep. Barnes sent a letter expressing his hopefulness to this youth: "The youth impressed me so much with her zeal and determination that it is my pleasure to recommend her for a position with your organization."

Story 2 A male youth returned to Eagle Point School (EPS) and admitted that he did little to improve himself the first time. However, upon his return to EPS the youth decided to enroll in the Building Trades class, only after behaving appropriately, attending class, and earning good grades. This youth completed his GED and has continued high school coursework, earning a 3.8 grade average. He has become a role model to the other youth and now volunteers in the classroom to help other students. His goal is to go to college, work part time in construction, and earn a degree in Engineering.

What's New at ADJC

- In the past two weeks, the Medical Services Division administered approximately 1,200 vaccines to ADJC youth, immunizing 99% of all youth in the institutions. Two vaccines were administered to each youth, a yearly influenza vaccine for flu and meningococcal vaccine for deadly meningitis. The vaccines were provided by the Arizona Vaccines for Children Program. Neither of these vaccines were previously available to ADJC juveniles.
- The Black Canyon School (BCS) Transformation Team was formed to facilitate the cultural shift of the facility while being mindful of the specific needs of the female population housed at BCS. The team is working under the guidance of the Department's consultant on gender responsive programming, Ms. Paula Schaefer, of Paula Schaefer & Associates. The team is comprised of staff members from various areas within the agency, including Youth Correctional Officers, Program Managers, Education staff, Clinical staff, Parole staff, and other administrators. Throughout the course of this process, the team will ensure all opinions are heard and addressed.
- The Shared Youth Vision Federal Collaborative announced that Arizona was among one of sixteen states selected to participate in an Advanced Technical Assistance Youth Vision Forum held earlier in the fall. The forum provided an opportunity for state teams to receive individual technical assistance geared toward the teams specific interagency goals and objectives for integrating services to better meet the "neediest youth" as identified in a White House report. The federal agencies involved in this collaborative initiative include the U.S. Departments of Justice, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Social Security Administration, and the Corporation for National and Community Service. The initiative is spearheaded out of the Governor's Division for Children and ADJC is pleased to be a partner.

Director's Corner

In my thirty year career, I have been grateful for the acknowledgement by local peers and colleagues for the work that I have done. I am very proud of being a veteran police officer and ensuring the safety of the public. However, recently I was nominated for an award on an issue that I knew very little about when I started with ADJC in October 2003. A few months ago, I was completely surprised when I received a call from the Mental Health Association of Arizona, and informed that I would be the recipient of the 2006 Cheryl Collier Award, honoring excellence in leadership and advocacy for all people with mental illness. I was being honored for my work as an advocate and bringing about change and reform in the area of mental illness within the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections. The Department could not have achieved those 'changes' and 'reforms' without the dedication and hard work of Deputy Director Dianne Gadow and Dr. Kellie Warren, Assistant Director of Programs and Institutions. It was my pleasure to accept this award on behalf of the Department.

Our fourth Semi-Annual CRIPA Report shows continued progress. Twelve reporting areas have been found to be in 'Substantial Compliance' for three reports in a row and can now be dismissed from monitoring. Be sure to visit our public website at www.azdjv.gov to view the report on-line.